



MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9246



VOL. 4, NO. 38

SEPT. 23-29

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

CROCKETT BACK IN WCW OFFICE; HERD ELECTED BY PHONE

ATLANTA---Minority World Championship Wrestling, Inc., stockholder Jim Crockett Jr. has been back in the WCW office in an unspecified capacity.

MATWATCH learned of Crockett's appearances shortly after an announcement of executive vice president Jim Herd's election as president of the National Wrestling Alliance.

MATWATCH attempted to fax and telephone Herd for comment last week but had received no response as of Thursday.

According to insiders, talk on THE JIM ROSS SHOW on WSB Radio Sept. 14 of a meeting in Charlotte to elect Herd is part cover story. Sources close to WCW say the decision was made by a telephone poll of promoters who still form the NWA consortium. Ross said Sunday night he may have "jumped the gun" on the announcement.

Some insiders say Crockett will have increased influence in day-to-day operations. However, others are warning WCW could be up to another decoy for wrestling newsletters. MATWATCH will attempt to talk with WCW president Jack Petrik this week.

FLORIDA HEARING MOVED TO NOVEMBER 5

TALLAHASSEE FL---A scheduled hearing on wrestling promotion practices in the Sunshine State before a Florida House of Representatives panel has been postponed until Nov. 5.

The Committee on Regulated Industries was originally scheduled to hear a proposal to regulate the mat industry Oct. 8.

Committee staff member Janet Clark has drafted legislation which would require random drug testing of wrestlers and mandatory steroid testing, force ring companies to give adequate notice of changes on cards and place a five per cent tax on each pro mat event.

Florida journalists say the bill faces tough sledding. Not only are the big two promotions fighting the bill but execs for smaller Florida groups say it could threaten their existence, particularly the tax provision.

A Six-Part Series

FIFTY YEARS OF MAT TELEVISION

Overlooked in a year of contract disputes, Ric Flair's ultimate jump and steroid scandals is a major milestone: the year 1991 marks the fiftieth anniversary of pro wrestling on commercial television.

Over the next six weeks, we will cover major turning points in the TV mat era, culled from my graduate research, A HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING AS TELEVISION PROGRAM FORM: 1941-1989.



Steve

Beverly

The birthing process began in 1939 when NBC was in the midst of a daily television program service to fewer than one thousand sets. Despite the expense (bulky early sets cost up to \$1,000), NBC plunged into live remote programming, including a heavy diet of sports. But with a single-camera mobile van, the network learned an early lesson. As Walter Podrazik details in the book

WATCHING TELEVISION: "There was no means for the announcer to monitor the on-air signal...it became very difficult to coordinate the descriptions and pictures in complicated wide-open team sports such as baseball and hockey. Boxing and wrestling, on the other hand, were much easier to follow because both only involved two contestants and took place in small, well-lit arenas."

While some experimental wrestling was televised in 1939 on W2XBS in New York, the first commercial broadcast of mat action came in July 1941 locally in New York. But media analyst Ron Powers says 1942 is the year wrestling and television became irrevocably wed. Two names were the keys: Klaus Landsberg and Dick Lane. Landsberg owned a fledgling experimental station in Los Angeles (now KTLA). Vaudevillian and "B" movie actor Lane had been managing wrestler Dangerous Danny McShain. Lane followed a tank-town circuit with McShain until being called to Hollywood to audition for a bit part in a detective movie. Lane had heard of Landsberg and television and wasted no time selling the owner on the ring as a TV staple. Powers writes: "The way Lane looked at it, wrestling had been around since three thousand years before the birth of Christ. The sport had paid its dues; it was ready for the big-time."

In the "summer of '42," grapplers made their way into a ring inside a small Hollywood studio for the live premiere. Even with a limited number of sets, Landsberg received a response unprecedented in his station's short life. The limited viewership was mesmerized by the antics of Lane's heroes and antiheroes. As announcer, Lane kept hysterical byplay in progress not only during the matches but between them with emotional interviews (Lane is credited by many sources as being the father of TV mat interviews). Landsberg quickly made wrestling what is believed to be the first multi-weekly program in Los Angeles TV history. With Americans anxious for a catharsis to rid themselves of the tensions of World War II, crowds in the tiny studio overflowed.

Within eighteen months, the television matches moved to the larger Olympic Auditorium. Lane became the first local television "star" in Los Angeles and commercial advertising for the matches quickly sold to capacity. Landsberg saw early on that if television was to be a financial success, wrestling was to play a vital part in attracting viewers.

(Next week: The early network TV mat years).

**THIS WEEK'S
HEADLINES****ZENK ARRESTED ON
BATTERY, STEROID CHARGES**

ATLANTA---WCW six-man tag team co-champion Tom Zenk was arrested Thursday at a suburban Atlanta hotel on charges of simple battery and possession of marijuana and steroids.

WSB-TV and WSB-AM reported Clayton County authorities went to the hotel to serve Zenk with a battery warrant and found some of the controlled substances in a waist pouch.

According to Sunday night's JIM ROSS SHOW on WSB-AM in Atlanta, WCW is taking a "wait and see what happens" position on Zenk.

**LPWA: IS IT DEAD
EXCEPT FOR TV?**

LOS ANGELES---No official statement has been released. No TV cancellation is being announced. But the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association is apparently dead or quasi-dormant.

Three scheduled television tapings have been canceled since the first of August in Georgia and a date for a planned pay-per-view has been postponed at least twice.

Some LPWA TV personnel have been unsuccessful in contacting LPWA syndicator Tor Berg in recent weeks and several LPWA regulars, including Medusa Miceli, are contacting other groups, saying LPWA is over.

LPWA is still syndicated on more than 60 U.S. TV stations but has not produced a first-run show in eleven weeks.

**MATWATCH
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

MATWATCH ceases weekly publication Jan. 27, 1992. Subscription rates through the final issue are listed on page 4. Until Oct. 15, short-term subscriptions are still available as follows:

(U.S./CANADA) \$6 for 5 issues, \$12 for 11.
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16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

Who's on First?**WCW SANCTIONED BY NWA:
DOES ANYBODY REALLY CARE?**

Only to the most ardent hardcore newsletter reader would Jim Ross' Sept. 15 announcement of Jim Herd's election as president of the National Wrestling Alliance have any degree of significance.

To be honest, it probably means little (except to those who find the alleged 80-plus years of history of the NWA as the legendary "oldest and largest sanctioning body" of professional wrestling sacrosanct) but to the parties involved. Considering the last time we reported on an issue involving some of the principals involved resulted in howling threats of lawsuit, we will tread cautiously into this water. But from what we've ascertained:

***THE VOTE WAS 4-TO-3: And we've spent the better part of this week trying to find out who the three "nays" were. From what we have been able to piece together, the "yeas" for Herd were from Herd, Jim Crockett, Gary Juster and, reportedly, Larry O'Day, an Australian who still recognized the Alliance.

***IN WRESTLING CIRCLES, IT MEANS LITTLE: For all intents and purposes, the NWA as most of us knew it died in 1986 when Crockett broke off relations with most regional territories, initially splitting with Fritz Von Erich's World Class and canceling a planned 14-city tour for Ric Flair to defend the NWA belt against territorial stars during THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH.

***IT'S ALL OVER "THE BELT:" Though "official" parties will likely dispute this, insiders have told MATWATCH when Flair and WCW parted company July 1, a majority of NWA promoters agreed to continue recognizing Flair as world champion, in hopes he would confine his career to Japan and be available for indie dates in the U.S. and overseas. But his move to the WWF and the flaunting angle with his old WCW/NWA belt as "the REAL world champion was too much for some, particularly WCW-allied NWA board members. A dispute has developed over who actually owns the belt. Flair reportedly was given the belt when Crockett could not make a balloon payment on Flair's contract at the time of Crockett's 1988 bankruptcy. When Turner Broadcasting bought casting Jim Crockett Promotions, its executives thought the belt was part of the deal. Other parties say "the NWA," which is not actually a corporate entity, owns the belt. Immediately after electing Herd, Lex Luger was recognized as NWA world champion. Despite TBS having a new belt made for Luger, sentiment apparently continues to recapture the belt to stop its being flaunted on WWF television. If this sounds like TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES has returned to the air, you're not far off the mark.

Considering some of the ridiculous developments surrounding Flair's departure from WCW on both sides of the fence---and that is an editorial view, to anyone with a legal paw poised to strike---the whole thing strikes me comical. Is there any finer example why pro wrestling has had a deteriorating hold on its fans in recent years than this kind of spectacle grown men are displaying over a stupid belt? It's akin to the time spent playing games with newsletter editors rather than trying to make one's promotional business better.

Say WCW---or, in this case, the NWA---succeeds in legal reclamation of the Flair belt. What will stop Vince McMahon from having a replica made? Or does that really matter? The belt's merely a prop to rub in WCW's face and anyone is a fool who thinks otherwise. Take it away and Flair will still call himself "the REAL world champion," because that's what Vince is telling him to do. I've never felt Flair was a god and never will. But the whole affair strikes me as childish as small-town TV news anchors who develop the egos of news readers in New York or L.A. That's something I know about firsthand.

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VICTIMS

Sept. 16-22

(WCW/TBS) - [WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]:

Rick Steiner d. Buddy Baker; Big Josh d. Doug Sommers; Enforcers d. T.C. Carter/Keith Hart; Bill Kazmaier d. Bob Cook; Cactus Jack d. Scott Allen & Abdullah the Butcher beats Allen w. kendo stick to blood after; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. Dangerously w. Dusty Rhodes on "real world title;" Bobby Eaton d. Zan Panzer (Tom Zenk refs); Barry Windham d. Curtis Hughes by DQ when Lex Luger runs-in & chairs Barry to juice; Johnny B. Badd d. Ian Weston; Diamond Stud d. Chris Sullivan; (FINALE) Windham calls out Luger. Lex strolls out, brawl erupts, Harley Race/Hughes flee. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[POWER HOUR]: Steiner d. Jack Savage; Badd d. T.C. Carter; Patriots d. Enforcers; Josh/Zenk d. Stud/Oz by DQ when Stud uses axhandle on Josh; (HALLOWEEN HAVOC CONTROL CENTER) Gordon Solie on Luger-Simmons saga & CHAMBER of HORRORS match; (MISSY DOES MAIL) Missy on Windham/Simmons-Luger/Race/Hughes saga; Cactus d. Scott Sandlin. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: Enforcers d. Young Pistols; (HALLOWEEN HAVOC C.C.) Ron Simmons-Luger contract signing, Simmons FSU jersey retired; Patriots d. Bob Cook/Mark Kyle; (OMN1) One-Man Gang hair clipped; OMG d. Sonny Trout; (OMN1) Simmons-Luger title match, Windham juices trying to save; Dustin Rhodes d. Tony Mello; (CLASH XVI) Cactus Jack/Sting box angle; Sting d. Mike Fever. RESTHOLD.

[WORLD WIDE]: {Top Match} Brian Pillman d. Thomas Rich; (SEG) Zenk becomes referee, reverses decision on Steve Austin win; (HAVOC C.C.) Same as WCW PRO. NO RATING.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - (OPEN) Kevin (The Truth) Casey says he's forming "Chaos, Inc." alliance; Denny Brown d. Ricky Starr; Bob Emory d. Tyrone Knox; Tommy Angel/Tommy Seabolt d. Brad & Brent Holliday; Chris Chavis d. El Cubano; Brown d. Les Parker; Manny Fernandez no contest vs. Jay Eagle when Manny refuses to pin Jay. Junkyard Dog/Brad Anderson/Chavis all run-in for 4-way brawl. DRAW.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: Scott Anthony/Rip Rogers d. American Breed; Chris Walker/Steve Simpson d. Tug Taylor/Ken Stryker; (NEWSROOM) Joe Pedicino on GWF Hotline, tag title; Bad Attitude d. Rick Garren/Terry Daniels; Terry Garvin/Chaz d. Texas Outlaws; Gary Young/Jeff Gaylord d. John Tatum/Rod Price & show ends in wild brawl. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENTS]: Gaylord d. Irwin; Renegade Warriors no contest vs. Tatum/Price when wild brawl erupts; Garvin d. Sweet Daddy Falcone; Steven Dane d. Chaz; Walker/Simpson d. Bad Attitude. POWERSLAM.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Mon.-Thu.]: Replays of weeks 2-5 of MAJOR LEAGUE WRESTLING. NO RATING.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Skinner d. Koko B. Ware; (UPDATE) Sid Justice/Jake Roberts on Randy/Liz reception cobra angle; Bushwhackers d. Paul Perez/Roy Garcia; (GUESTS) Rockers, who make Alfred Hayes a Rocker; Barbarian d. Ron Cumberland; (SUMMER SLAM/WWF TAG TITLE) Legion of Doom d. Nasty Boys to win belts; (GUESTS) Ted DiBiase/Sherri Martel, who throws tantrum; Virgil d. Bubba Monroe; (SEGMENT) Bobby Heenan tears up WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT magazine; Undertaker d. Bill Pierce; (CLIP) Hulk Hogan in "Suburban Commando;" (S. SLAM) Mountie hauled to jail; Big Bossman d. Col. Mustafa; (GUEST) Justice chases Heenan when he calls Sid a "pansy;" Hercules double countout vs. Greg Valentine; Warlord d. Mark Thomas; (REPLAY)

Ric Flair's PTW debut/Gene Okerlund w. Hogan; Orient Express d. Dwayne Gill/Barry Hardy; Davey Boy Smith d. Chris Duffy; (FINALE) Rockers bring out "transformed" Alfred in goofy rock outfit. DRAW.

(USWA/WMC) - Tony Anthony d. Scorpion; Eric Embry d. Dave Dowdy; (SEG) Dutch Mantel says he's been sent anonymous letter to threaten him; (MUSIC) Billy Joe Travis sings "The Eyes of Texas Are

Upon Me;" Travis no contest vs. Chris Frazier when B.J. bashes Chris on head w. guitar before bell; (ANGLE) Embry denies he wrote letter to Mantel. Eric then ambushes Dutch & bashes him w. TX flag; (ANGLE) Embry decks Eddie Marlin, chokes him w. shirt collar. Travis/Jeff Jarrett brawl until Anthony helps chase heels; Jerry Lawler d. Freezer Thompson in scientific match; (TIME EXPIRATION) Jarrett/Mantel d. PYTs (Jeff goes solo in first fall because Bill Dundee doesn't show until Dutch teams). 1st fall: DQ when Embry/Travis run in. Dutch chases heels w. Shoo Baby. 2nd fall: Jarrett pins Rhodes. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Billy Black d. Mad Dog Joe; Terry Leyland d. Festus; (GLOBAL) Tatum/Price d. American Breed; (CLASSIC/N. AMERICAN) Bob Rangle/Vince Torelli d. Hunter Thompson/Speedy Gonzales; Joel Deaton d. Eddie Sweat; (INTL/STAMPEDE) Kerry Brown d. Mr. Ito. RESTHOLD.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - Tom Sawyer d. Al Hardeman; (ANGLE) Giant Outlaw says he'll "whip Superstar's butt," creating dissension in Penelope Paradise's camp; Pipeline Fever d. Outlaw when Penelope accidentally powders Outlaw, who fires Paradise; Tommy Rogers vs. Firecat in progress as show ends. NO RATING.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - [1981]: East-West Connection d. Tito Santana/The Crippler; [1981/AWA WORLD TITLE]: Verne Gagne d. Nick Bockwinkel. DRAW.

(IWCCW) - Scott Putski d. Black Knight; Tony Place/Putski d. Jackson/Browse; Ivan Putski d. Tony Atlas by DQ. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/SYN) - [SUPERSTARS]: {Key Event} Flair w. Paul Bearer in FUNERAL PARLOR; (UPDATE) Randy Savage tells Gene Okerlund he needs to be w. Liz & wants revenge for cobra attack but Jack Tunney refuses to reinstate Savage. NO RATING....Pre-empted in market.

[CHALLENGE]: Virgil d. Monroe; (SPECIAL REPORT) Savage situation; Berserker d. Cumberland; (VIDEO) Tito Santana as The Matador; Mountie d. Tony Diamond; Jim Neidhart d. Dwayne Gill; (BARBER SHOP) Brutus Beefcake w. Flair/Heenan; Kerry Von Erich d. Barry Hardy; Undertaker d. Chris Hawn. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - [REPEAT SHOW]: Reggie Bennett d. Susan Sexton for over-top; Magnificent Mimi d. LaGata; Lelani Kai/Judy Martin d. The Beast/Alma Alvarez; (ANGLE) Bad, Black & Beautiful get into brouhaha w. Queen's Court. Wally Karbo has to separate; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Lady X/Ashley Kennedy; Misty Blue Simmes/Allison Royal d. Candi Divine/Rusty Thomas; Bambi/Malaya Hosaka d. Nasty Girls; (LOCKER ROOM) Boni Blackstone w. Medusa Miceli, who slobbers through water during interview. NO RATING.

SCALE: PINKALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

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1. Craig Johnson, GLOBAL: "A viewer named Dave from Campbell, California, wanted to see Rasta the Voodooon." 2. Johnson, GLOBAL: "A viewer named Wade from Minnesota wanted to see Rasta the Voodooon again." 3. Terrence Taylor, JIM ROSS SHOW, on Chamber of Horrors: "I thought that was some of your ex-blind dates, Jim---four of 'em together." 4. Sean Mooney/Bob- by Heenan, PTW: (SM) "Bobby, what do you consider good music?" (BH) "Jim Nabors." 5. Ross/Paul E. Dangerously, PH: (JR) "If I was trying to be Paul E. Dangerously, I'd lose some hair." (PED) "If I were trying to be Jim Ross, I'd gain some weight." (JR) "In some places, it'd look pretty good on you." 6. Dusty Rhodes, WCW: "Justice wee-yull be served from the Omini." 7. Heenan, PTW, on how to make Alfred Hayes a "Rock- er:" "First, they'll have to get rid of all those Kate Smith albums. Then, they'll have to pour about 16 gallons of Geri- tol down him and some Mueslix just to get him regular." 8. Scott Hudson, WVEU: "DeFruth, you bring out a blue sportcoat to be the Blue Blazer. What are you going to do next? Be a one-man team and challenge the White Sox?" 9. Heenan, PTW, on Bushwhackers: "Look in their medicine chest and you won't find dental floss, you'll find rope." 10. Bob Caudle/Kevin Casey, SAPW: (BC) "I'm real excited about South Atlantic Pro action." (KC) "I thought you were excited about the price of Geritol going down." 11. Ross/Paul E., JRS: (JR) "When he gets that emotion in his voice, I think I'm talking to Jimmy Swaggart." (PED) "Yeah, I know all about you and Marvin Gorman." (JR) "Thank you very much." 12. Heenan, PTW, on Rocker Alfred Hayes: "He's not a Rocker. He's a Rockette." 13. Ross, JRS, on Missy Hyatt: "She doesn't get along with anybody over 5-foot- 3." 14. Paul E./Ross, JRS, on Jim's interview w. Cactus Jack: (PE) "You're making a mistake. He cares nothing about people." (JR) "I don't want to date him." 15. Dennis A. Brent/Paul E., JRS, on Chamber of Horrors: (DB) "There's certain doors with keys and you'll either find friend or foe behind the door." (PE) "Who's gonna referee? Monty Hall?" 16. Steven DeFruth, PW'91, on Moose Mahoney: "Looks like Moose ought to practice girth control." 17. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW, on Col. Mustafa: "He has three medals: one for break- fast, one for lunch and one for dinner." 18. Scott Anthony, PW'91, on Hudson: "If Bruce Willis is Hudson Hawk, that must make you Hudson Hummingbird." 19. Anthony/DeFruth, PW'91: (SA) "Get out of here, Hudson Hummingbird! I wanna be inter- viewed by Steven DeFruth!" (SD) "Wise decision! Hudson is a stranger to good interviews as he is to a hair brush!" 20. Heenan, PTW, on Virgil: "He's so stupid, he probably took that gold belt and had it bronzed." 21. Randy Savage, WC: "Elizabeth is emotionally scarred. When will that go away?" 22. Ric Flair, WC: "For eight years, Hogan, I've yelled---'Come on out! Let's see who's The Man.'" 23. Ashley Kennedy, LPWA: "Reggie Bennett's been doing a lot better at buffets than in wrestling rings." 24. Joe Pedicino/Jim Cornette, LPWA, on Billy Anderson: (JP) "He's the greatest ring announcer in the history of wrest- ling." (JC) "I like that Pinkie guy better in New York. What's his name? Howie Pinkie?"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Byron (caller)/Paul E., JRS: (B) "Is Eddie Gilbert still married to Missy Hyatt?" (PE) "No.

He finally grew up and realized she...well." 2. Rhodes, WCW: "Until you beat Lex Lu-gah...you are not the REAL wulld cham- pion." 3. Paul E., PH, on Dusty: "I think he's using this speical referee status as an excuse to come out of retire- ment." 4. Taylor, JRS, on Steiners: "They hurt themselves as much as they hurt their opponents." 5. Taylor, JRS, on calls about Red Rooster: "What I did was do the best I could with the character they wanted me to have. What I hope is that people recognize underneath the makeup is the same wrestler." 6. Ross, JRS: "There are too many titles. When you get to the Western States champion, the Cobb County champion, or the Peachtree St. champion, it dilutes the value of the titles."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Scott, caller, JRS: "If you don't consider Ric Flair to be the world heavyweight champion, then how come his belt is still on the opening of WCW MAIN EVENT?" 2. Taylor, JRS, on Zenk's arrest: "He's innocent un- til proven guilty. Whatever happened to giving somebody a chance?" 3. Ross, JRS, on caller asking about Zenk arrest & Blackjack Mulligan/Kendall Windham case: "Are you reading CRIME AND PUNISHMENT?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE SAVAGE SUMMIT (Sean Mooney on Savage/Jack Tunney "meeting" for reinstatement). 2. PAUL'S UNCLE (Ross on Solie). 3. STORMIN' NORMAN (Paul E. on Todd Champion). 4. MR. PUBLIC SPEAKING (Taylor on Scott Steiner).

OFF-BROADCAST LINE - 1. Johnny Horton, Atlanta, on Barry Windham in Chamber of Horrors match: "Face it...he's a heel." 2. Unnamed radio personality, on WORLD WIDE: "Isn't there anything better on, like a STAR TREK rerun?"

BEST PICTURES - 1. PTW, Rockers trying to loosen up Alfred Hayes. 2. SAPW, Four-way brawl. 3. PH, Cactus hipbusting Sandlin. 4. WMC, Dave Brown's reax to Billy Joe Travis song. 5. WC, Brutus Beefcake sleeping through Flair BARBER SHOP seg.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Dusty Rhodes, WCW: "The OM-I-NI." 2. Caudle, SAPW: for calling Brad Anderson "Brad ARMSTRONG."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Heenan, PTW: "A good big man will always beat a good little man."

FINAL MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTION PLAN

MATWATCH ceases weekly publication Jan. 27, 1992. To extend your subscription to the final issue, check your mail- ing label. Your closeout rate is listed below by the corres- ponding date:

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Please check page 2 for shorter-term subscription rates and gift offer through Oct. 1.

Information on the purchase of MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER, the 1992 annual, will be announced Oct. 7.

CENTER STAGE CHANGES: If you noticed the facelift to the WCW TV arena, you saw a new WCW banner and mini-banners depicting Sting, Tom Zenk, El Gigante, the Steiners, Lex Luger and P.N. News.

OTHER CHANGES: WCW is using a Steadicam for many of the ring entrances and also a locker room set, which comes out of a framed door.

STILL TO COME: It appears WCW will be using a video wall at Center Stage, a la the kind used on ESPN Sports Center and on the now-defunct game show THE CHALLENGERS for some clips.

BIG VAN IN THE CHAMBER: Abdullah the Butcher gets the nod over One-Man Gang in the HALLOWEEN HAVOC Chamber of Horrors match after Gang's dismissal for reportedly refusing to do a job for P.N. News weekend before last. Big Van Vader has told some insiders he's going to be working HAVOC and could sub for Scott Steiner if Scott is not ready (see page 6).

ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN: Zenk is listed back on the HAVOC card vs. The Halloween Phantom, a match we had earlier been told was pulled.

AUSTIN ON THE MEND: Steve Austin and Jeannie Clarke were at the WCW tapings Monday and Tuesday and Austin is apparently up and around after banging up a knee.

GLOBAL INJURY LIST: Rod Price (California Stud) has also messed up a knee, so Sweet Daddy Falcone will be a third member of Skandor Akbar's Bi-Coastal Connection with John Tatum.

FRIDAY IN DALLAS: A Gary Young-Tatum match ended the first hour, then the scene shifted to Scott Hudson in the dressing room with a depressed Scott Anthony over a "loss of a woman" in years back to the Handsome Stranger. Tears begin to well up, then Scotty gets madder and tears up the dressing room.

SECOND HOUR: Stranger makes his entrance and Scotty is in the crowd, dressed as an old lady, wig and all. As Stranger stops to give "her" a rose, Scotty coldcocks Stranger, then tosses him in the ring and breaks a cane over Stranger's back. As he tries to unmask him, three refs pull Scotty away and escort him to the locker room.

OTHER GLOBAL ADDITIONS: Jeff Raitz will be The Rattlesnake and will ally with Young and Jeff Gaylord. Joe Pedicino is also looking for a tag team to go into the Cartel to replace the departed Cactus Jack.

WHO'S THE BOSS?: Speculation continues but Pedicino is said to be thinking of making The Boss a woman and Medusa Miceli, from the apparently-defunct LPWA, and Toni Adams are being considered as candidates.

OCTOBER GLOBAL FEUDS: Look for Eddie Gilbert-Al Perez, Stranger-Anthony and Makham Singh-Terry Gordy matchups, along with Tatum/Falcone vs. Young/Gaylord feud. Pedicino hopes for tape of Mike Shaw's current tour of Germany on upcoming shows.

NO PUERTO RICO TRIP: Warlord was not expected to make an originally skedded date vs. Carlos Colon in Puerto Rico, now that he's in the Bret Hart I-C title feud.

Six-Man Playoff**GLOBAL FILLS TV
TITLE OCT. 4**

ATLANTA----A playoff to fill the vacated Global TV championship is scheduled Oct. 4 in Dallas at the Globaldome.

A six-man round-robin tourney is scheduled to crown a new titleholder for the belt vacated when the Patriot (Del Wilkes) won the Global North American championship.

At deadline, tentative entries were Eddie Gilbert, Brian Lee, The Soultaker, Terry Gordy, The Handsome Stranger and Mike Davis. The tourney will likely air on both ESPN and on the MAJOR LEAGUE syndicated show.

MORE ON BLACK/DEATON: A few days before Billy Black and Joel Deaton were axed from GEORGIA ALL-STAR and GLOBAL, they had asked \$500-a-show each after their recent Japan success. But some witnesses insist Black was told by a Global partner he isn't fired. Stay tuned on this one.

GLOBAL GA. RETURN: GWF has a return date at Cobb County Civic Center Oct. 20 with a Patriot-Stan Lane rematch on top and Jim Cornette will get an "injunction" to be at ringside.

LAST MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Jerry Lawler and Tony Anthony d. Eric Embry/Phil Hickerson in the finale and in the six-man, the PYTs and Chris Love d. Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller/Ronald P. Gossett IV.

OTHER BOUTS: Also at the Mid-South Cliseum, Dutch Mantel d. Dragonmaster, Koko B. Ware d. Reggie B. Fine, Billy Joe Travis d. Daddy O, Bill Dundee d. Bull Pain, and Brian Christopher went to a draw vs. Awesome Kong. No Memphis show this week because of Mid-South Fair.

CONGRATS TO VERNE: Our best to Verne Langdon on a stellar show and gathering over the weekend. I hope to make one of those eventually. Our good friend, Dan Farren, lost 50 pounds to referee a 16-bout tourney at SLAMMERS WRESTLING GYM.

DECEMBER SPECTACULAR: A double world title showdown is skedded Dec. 21 in Hamburg, Germany. Big Van Vader goes up against Tatsumi Fujinami for the IWGP heavyweight title and Rambo defends the German version of the heavyweight crown vs. Terry Funk. Owen Hart and Chris Benoit are also on the card.

NEXT WEEKEND WITH LARRY: We'll be on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW (WCAO-AM/600) in Baltimore Sunday night for one or two hours. Larry may have an interview with Hulk Hogan on "Suburban Commando" in the first hour.

AXL'S TO GRIND: Axl Rotten was on with Larry and Jerry Mo-shenberg this past Sunday on the eve of his official WCW debut Monday night in Dothan AL. Axl apparently replaces One-Man Gang in a program vs. P.N. News.

AN UPDATE: One caller took offense at our omission of Lou Thesz for an excellent one-hour interview on Larry's show Sept. 15, as well as Ed Zohn's guest hosting. No oversight intended, believe me. I was on at the very end of that show and was not told whom the earlier guests had been. The week before, I had been told by phone I was to be on for 2 hours on the 15th, which is why that was listed in last week's issue. It's incredible the conclusions to which people jump.

(Continued on Page 6)

PRIME TIME Hits Record Low

**WCW REBOUNDS TO
TOP TWO SLOTS**

After weeks of being mired in the lower division of the Nielsen cable wrestling ratings, both afternoon WCW shows topped the list for the week ending Sept. 16.

On top of the WCW rebound, PRIME TIME WRESTLING dipped to what is believed to be a record low 2.1 rating for the series.

WCW MAIN EVENT, which won the week, and WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING were both up from year-ago figures and the two key WWF shows dropped sharply from the 3.0 ratings each posted on the same weekend in 1990.

WWE captured the week with a 2.6 rating and 5.2 per cent share of audience. The Saturday WCW, which faces head-on competition from ABC college football but no longer from ESPN (except in the final half-hour of two-hour WCW shows), scored a 2.5/5.6 for the runner-up slot.

PTW, after a big boost to a 3.2 the week before for the Ric Flair debut, crashed 34% to a 2.1 and only a 3.1% share. MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL cannot be the only reason. The Kansas City-Houston game on ABC, posted only a 15.8, down three points from the previous week. The one-hour season premieres of DESIGNING WOMEN and MURPHY BROWN, which went through the ratings roof, could have been the culprit.

ALL-AMERICAN, beginning to take some on the chin from Sunday NFL games, fell to a 2.0/5.3.

POWER HOUR slipped 13% to a 1.4 while posting a 6.2 share.

CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 16	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/15)	2.6/5.2	1.49 million	2.5/4.7
WCW WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 9/14)	2.5/5.6	1.43 million	2.1/4.9
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/16)	2.1/3.1	1.2 million	3.0/4.5
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/15)	2.0/5.3	1.14 million	3.0/8.2
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 9/14)	1.4/6.2	802,200	1.6/3.1

MATWATCHING
(From Page 5)

IWF HIATUS: Eddie Mansfield has pulled his IWF show from Florida's Sunshine Network until at least late October.

Sunshine has been relegating IWF to late-night time slots.

ADVANCE NOTICES: The Sid Justice-Undertaker series is pulling some terrible advances and many observers say it's because the angle is a Randy Savage-Jake Roberts one. On the other hand, while it's too early to tell, the Hulk Hogan-Ric Flair series shows initial signs of going through the roof.

LUCHA STRIKE: It's on and for real. We'll have more details next week but GALAVISION was relegated to a highlight show Sunday night and virtually all of last weekend's LUCHA LIBRE shows in Mexico City were shut down.

BAYWARD: UWF Southern champ Cody Wade lost to Man Mountain Brody and Ian Weston on two Boris Malenko cards Sunday in the Tampa-St. Pete area.

**TAYLOR TALKS ROOSTER,
SCOTT TELLS PLANS**

ATLANTA---IWGP tag team co-champion Scott Steiner said he intends to make the HALLOWEEN HAVOC Chamber of Horrors match and York Foundation member Terrence Taylor answered critics of his WWF "Red Rooster" role on Sunday night's JIM ROSS SHOW.

On the WSB-AM series, Steiner told Ross in a phone interview, "I'm on the upswing, working out with the weights and running and going to rehabilitation five days a week." He was scheduled for a checkup on his torn bicep this week with noted orthopedic surgeon Jim Andrews in Birmingham.

Steiner also suffered another accident in the past week. He told Ross while working with his father, he lost control of a chainsaw, which grazed his shoulder and left a wound requiring 36 stitches to close. "I'm an accident waiting to happen," said Steiner.

Taylor took several calls on the "Rooster" character, one caller saying, "I'm glad you got rid of that Rooster crap." Answered Taylor: "What I did was the best I could with the character they (WWF) wanted me to have. What I hope people recognize is underneath the makeup was the same wrestler."

Asked by a caller what WCW plans to do in the wake of Tom Zenk's arrest (see page 2), Taylor jumped to Zenk's defense: "Hey, did anybody ever hear of innocent until proven guilty? Mike Tyson's accused of a lot worse and they're going to let him fight. Whatever happened to giving somebody a chance?"

Taylor says he's up for a role in a television pilot he cannot publicly discuss. Said Ross: "I bet the wrestling media people will love that. They'll get on the phone and call each other and say, 'Did you hear that?'"

**UIW: "PROBLEMS BUT
NOT UNDER"**

BALTIMORE---Universal Independent Wrestling is attempting to overcome recent difficulties at its Martinsburg VA heavy-weight title tournament but is not out of business, according to informed sources.

Because of a four-day trip to Greensboro NC last week, MATWATCH was not able to reach UIW chief Ed Zohn by deadline but Baltimore radio talk show host Larry Katz told MATWATCH late Sunday, "They're having problems but they're still alive."

Trouble brewed Sept. 14 in Martinsburg when the tourney competitors reportedly learned they would not be paid for the evening. The wrestlers skipped from the quarterfinals directly to the title match. MATWATCH will attempt to reach Zohn this week.

MATWATCH
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